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*W. Berry & Co.*

though it is known the written confession was handed him by Attorney Lee this afternoon.

That Richeson confessed in the hope that he would escape the death he had meted out to the girl who had been the victim of his crime.

But if Richeson escapes the death chair it will be because Governor Foss intervened to save him. Since his induction into office Governor Foss has been himself a deep student of psychology and the passions that sway men and impel them to crime.

Richeson greeted me with nervous dread. I knew the pangs of conscience and remorse had overcome all else. He told me he had decided on a line of action. We talked him what it was, thinking to humor him, but he had gone there to question him about his act when he mutilated himself.

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"It was 3 o'clock Friday afternoon when we left Richeson's cell. We took the confession this afternoon to District Attorney Pelletier. That is all that is to be said. Whether the district attorney will accept his confession, whether he will stick to his assertion and demand a first degree murder plea, I do not know. He alone knows. We can only hope."

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"The attorney flushed angrily and sprang to his feet. "That is a question that will answer for no living man," he shouted. "If we cannot continue this interview without my answering that question, this interview is at an end right now."

Then Mr. Lee bowed the newspaper men out of his room. Mr. Pelletier would not admit that he had any hand in writing the confession from Richeson. He was asked to the McNamara case, in which Prosecuting Attorney Fredericks knew of the confessions of the McNamara brothers for some time, but declined to admit even that he had been confessed.

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as to the attitude of the Edmonds family toward the murderer, who was engaged to marry Miss Violet Edmonds. The public has wondered all along who paid the three lawyers who appeared for the pastor. Though no announcement ever has been made, it was believed that Moses Grant Edmonds, millionaire father of Richeson's fiancée, paid the bills for the defense of the man who was to have married his daughter the very day he was indicted for the murder of the little girl.

In his mansion in Brookline, Edmonds denied himself to all callers to-night. Reached over the telephone, he refused to answer any questions. He was as obdurate in this respect as he has been throughout the entire case.

A report that Mrs. Edmonds, who said when she looked into his big brown eyes and heard him protest his innocence she could not believe him guilty, had collapsed was given considerable credence when the Edmonds family physician hurried to their home this evening, remaining there several hours.

There is much speculation here to-night as to the future attitude of the father of the confessed pastor-slayer. When the criminal old man, erect and proud, came to Boston after the arrest of his son, he protested that "his boy" was innocent.

"My boy Clarence has just told me he is not guilty of this dastardly crime," proudly said the aged father. "and I believe him. Clarence never told me a lie in his life, but—"

And here the old man's voice broke—"but if he should be guilty, he is no son of mine. I would disown him in a second. The Richesons of Virginia are not murderers; they would not stand by one of their own if he slew the girl."

Mrs. Linnell, mother of the murdered girl, to-day expressed relief that Richeson had confessed, but there was no exultation in her voice. "I believed from the first that Mr. Richeson was guilty," she said, "and now I am glad that the truth has come out. But I cannot believe Mr. Richeson was in his right mind when he poisoned my little girl. I can't believe it."

"Why," she continued, "I loved Mr. Richeson almost as I would a son, but I feared to have him marry my daughter because of the strange nervous condition to which he was subject. Once he broke his engagement with my daughter because he did not think he was able to assume the responsibility of taking a wife."

Richeson's health was greatly improved, I did consent, but oh, how I wish I had not done so."

THINKS PASTOR SANE BUT A CUNNING FIEND

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) New York, January 6.—According to Dr. Charles E. Macdonald, one of the most famous alienists in this country, it was Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson's peculiar egoism that induced him to give out his amazing confession to-day.

To-night Dr. Macdonald made a statement to the United Press, in which he said: "I have ever been ME, ME, ME, with that man Richeson. I have just read his confession, and from it I draw the conclusion that it is an insane man who has been all his actions. I consider the man sane, but a cunning fiend, whose present purpose is to save his life, despite his protestations to the contrary. If Richeson had not been found out in his hideous crime, I believe he would be leading a prayer meeting somewhere to-night, with a long solemn face. He is that sort of a man, and deserves no pity."

Dr. Macdonald, who was called to Buffalo to pass upon the mental status of Colgoz, McKinley's slayer; who was medical counsel to the district attorney during the trial and is an international authority on psychology and mental diseases, has made a study of the Richeson case from the published reports and history of the man. While he has never seen the self-confessed minister-slayer, he bases his deductions and opinions on the chief characteristics and acts of his acts.

"His confession was not forced by the lashings of his conscience, but his last desperate resort to escape the electric chair."

"Richeson, so far as I can judge by his acts, characteristics and history, published in the press, is of the type that has two powerful motives which at all times inspire and direct his every act—the desire to live as long as possible, and the impulse to satisfy his own desires and appetites. This is supreme selfishness."

"His mind, naturally a keen one, has been trained by his study for the

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"His mind, naturally a keen one, has been trained by his study for the

ministry and his work as a pastor afterward, to a high capacity for fine discrimination between right and wrong.

"He did not wrong Miss Linnell impulsively, but deliberately. He did not woo the Edmonds girl through sudden impulse, but through a motive and after a well deliberated plan. This was cupidly, in the first instance, at least. He did not play the Linnell girl through sudden impulse, but as a part of a well-laid plan. He did not mutilate himself through a frenzy, but with the intention of creating the foundation for a defense which would save him from the chair."

"He did not write the confession made public to-day under a sudden impulse. The confession shows calculation, deliberation, and its composition indicates an effort to produce the best impression. Clearly it asserts that Richeson has no hope of saving himself through it, yet it was written for no other purpose than that."

"If Richeson had been outside a cell instead of behind bars; if he had faced a future with the heinous, rather than almost sure exposure and punishment, he would never have confessed, and his 'lashings of conscience' would never have manifested themselves."

"Yes, my opinion is that Richeson is more guilty than the ordinary man, for he is capable of a fine discrimination, possessed of a keen mind, and his training should have taken him from the criminal mental point from such a crime. Hence, or entitled at all times more keenly than the ordinary man the enormity of his acts."

"The one driving thing, the one great impulse in the case of Richeson, was his egoism. He could not resist himself. What he desired he must have. He got what he desired. He took it as a wolf takes his prey. He denied himself nothing. He had no mercy."

"While the man, of course, suffers somewhat from remorse, that remorse is the showy kind and of doubtful sincerity. He expects people to pity him now."

Will Make No Comment. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Cambridge, Mass., January 6.—Rev. W. A. Richeson, an uncle of Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson, the confessed murderer of Miss Linnell, when told over the telephone to-night that his nephew had made a confession and asked for a statement replied he had nothing to say. He refused to be questioned as to whether or not the confession was a surprise to him, he repeated that he would make no statement for publication.

It could not be learned whether the father of the murderer had been apprised of the confession, but he probably does not know of it to-night, for he has a considerable distance from Cambridge, Mass., where he is now residing. His home being fifteen miles from Cambridge.

The general impression here, where Rev. Richeson preached when a youth and where he has a number of close relatives, has long been that he was a man of the highest character and high ability, but his confession came as a distinct surprise, for it was not anticipated by his relatives. The leading counsel for the defense in the case, is in Boston, and is not expected to return here until the matter has been closed finally.

Does Not Surprise Him. Cambridge, Mass., January 6.—The Rev. E. Cummings, of Belmont, clerk of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, over which the Rev. C. V. T. Richeson presided, said upon learning of the confession: "I am not surprised. The actions of the minister have been consistent with those of an imbecile man."

Miss Edmonds in New York. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) New York, January 6.—A young woman believed to be Miss Violet Edmonds, engaged to marry the Rev. C. V. T. Richeson, when he was arrested, reached New York this afternoon in company with Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Reeder. She came from Hastings-on-the-Hudson.

Mr. and Mrs. Reeder and the girl left Hastings-on-the-Hudson at 12:12 P. M. Reeder bought two tickets for the Grand Central Station, this city, and one for Kingsbridge.

The party reached the depot just before the train pulled out. The young woman was heavily veiled, but a glimpse of her face showed she had been weeping and that she closely resembled the bride who was to marry the minister-slayer.

After the party reached the Grand Central Station here, a friend of the young woman was seen, and all efforts to locate Miss Edmonds this evening were futile. She was said to be with friends in Hastings-on-the-Hudson.

GIRL RICHESON KILLED, HER HOME AND CHURCH OF WHICH HE WAS THE PASTOR



Miss Avis Linnell. Home of Miss Avis Linnell. Emmanuel Baptist Church, in Cambridge, Mass.

## CHILDREN'S PLAY ENDS IN TRAGEDY

Little Girl Probably Fatally Burned When Skirt Is Caught on Fire.

RUSHED TO CITY HOSPITAL

Physicians Have Little Hope for Recovery in View of Condition.

Tragedy followed close upon innocent play yesterday afternoon, when Louise Everett, the nine-year-old daughter of Edgar Lee Everett, of 830 Church Street, having in a spirit of fun put on a dress with a long train, ventured too near an open fireplace and found herself in a moment a mass of flames. Together with a number of her small playmates she had gone across the street to the home of a neighbor to play. Some one proposed that they play grown folks, and Louise arrayed herself in a long skirt, which trailed far behind her on the floor.

In some manner the long dress caught, and the little girl ran screaming to the street. There the wind served only to feed the flames, and the child rushed, a human torch, into her own home. The frantic mother, assisted by a number of neighbors, rushed to the rescue, pulling away the burning garments. When these were finally removed it was found that the child was scorched and burned from head to foot, and a hurry call was sent in for the ambulance. Dr. R. E. Watts responded, but encountered strong opposition on the part of the family to the little girl's removal to the City Hospital, the mother pleading that she be kept at home. Better counsel, however, prevailed, and the child was taken to a critical condition, to the hospital, being held in her father's arms during the trip.

An examination by the surgeons revealed burns covering more than half of her body, and rendering the case practically hopeless. Her mother could not be persuaded to leave the bedside, and watched with the suffering child through the night. Witnesses of the accident were certain that the girl inhaled flames during her wild dash across the street to her home, and examination by the physicians at the hospital failed to reveal any evidence of it. At a late hour little hope was held out for her recovery, the resident physician stating it as his opinion that she would hardly survive the night. Mr. Everett, an employee at the State Penitentiary.

## MINISTER'S HABIT USED BY RICHESON TO CLOAK HIS SINS

(Continued From First Page.)

question surprised Miss Hanescomb, she managed to answer No. Then the conversation ended.

Richeson Suspected. Medical Examiner Leary was convinced as soon as he saw the body that it was a case of murder and not suicide. The police kept that quiet, however, for a few days. Their activity was at once directed toward Richeson. They asked themselves the usual question, "Who would benefit most by Miss Linnell's death?" It hardly needed a medical man to see that the girl had been in a delicate condition. Richeson was suspected of the murder. The police dug up a case rapidly. Deputy Police Superintendent Watts was informed by William Hahn, a Newton Centre druggist, that Richeson had purchased cyanide of potassium there on the night of October 13.

Richeson told the druggist that he had a dog at home that was making a disturbance, and that he wanted to put the dog out of her misery. The druggist said: "I didn't know you had a dog."

"Oh, yes," replied Richeson, "I kept her down at my room."

The druggist asked him why he did not use chloroform. Richeson thought it would not be strong enough. He asked for something very strong. Hahn suggested cyanide of potassium, and put up some in a vial, saying: "That's strong enough to kill three or four dogs."

"Hahn," said Richeson, "put in three or four more chunks, won't you?" Hahn was surprised, but did as Richeson requested.

"Now can you keep a secret?" asked Richeson. "I haven't bought this," Hahn reassured him, and Richeson left after inviting the druggist to his wedding with Miss Edmonds. On this information the police decided to arrest Richeson.

On December 13 he injured himself severely with a piece of the apparently from the top of a marmoset jar, gashing himself in the groin with the result that a surgeon had to perform a dangerous operation. Nobody thought that Richeson had tried to commit suicide. It appeared more likely that his self-injury was the result of remorse, possibly of an unbalanced mind. He was dangerously ill for a time, but has been recovering steadily. His trial was set for January 15.

Leaves Money for Own Statue. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Waterville, Conn., January 6.—Colonel Watson J. Miller, a Shelton manufacturer worth \$200,000, bequeathed in his will, filed for probate to-day \$50,000 with which to purchase a statue of himself to be placed in front of the town hall.

## We Sold Thousands of Dollars Worth of Victors and Victrolas During the Holidays

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## ADMITS HE IS NOT BEST CANDIDATE

Bryan Declares There Are Men Who Can Poll More Votes Than He.

Raleigh, N. C., January 6.—The greatest outburst of applause that greeted William J. Bryan during his address here to-night was when he declared he believed that there are men in the party who can poll more votes for the Democracy than he, and that he will apply himself to more earnest work for them than he ever did when burdened with personal candidacy, that he has abandoned the expectation of office, but is by no means out of politics. Mr. Bryan's address was "Progress of the World in Intelligence, Morals and in Application of the Science of Representative Government."

He said he regretted lack of progress in his declared reform for the election of United States Senators by the people and declared that both parties must stop sham battles on this subject and go in patriotically for driving great corporations and special interests from control of the United States Senate and pass the ball for the people to elect Senators and elect the best man in each party. He predicted that primaries for nomination of candidates will ere long be generally in force.

An eloquent feature of Mr. Bryan's address was his review of the progress of reforms in government in all the countries of the earth and his reference to prosecutions of representatives of "special interests" and trusts, and investigations into commercial conspiracies against the interests of the people. He pointed out that the Democrats in Congress will use their present majority control for pushing these investigations into many needed avenues. He declared since Senator Lodge had in a recent speech here given it to be an expected criticism of the principle of initiative and referendum that he felt constrained to refute these criticisms. He went into an analysis of the principle and predicted speedy application of it as a national and State system. A citizen committee headed by Editor Joseph Daniels received and entertained Mr. Bryan this afternoon and to-night, informal receptions and a dinner at the Yarrowborough being features. His reception at the auditorium was most flattering, and he manifested the keenest appreciation. He was introduced by former Governor Aycock.

Without Fire Protection. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Hartford, Conn., January 6.—Hartford has been practically without fire protection since 6:30 o'clock this evening, owing to a breakdown of a thirty-inch water main on Park Street. A repair gang of forty from the water company has been working desperately to repair the trouble, but up to midnight this had not been accomplished. Two hours after the break an alarm of fire was sounded in the affected district and caused excitement, as the hydrants were useless. The blaze was extinguished with the use of chemicals.

Celebration Admission. Santa Fe, N. M., January 6.—Although Santa Fe and all New Mexico this afternoon shouted and displayed flags in celebration of the admission of the Territory to statehood, the real celebration was reserved until January 15, when William B. McDonald will be inaugurated as the first Governor.

This afternoon scores of prominent men in the State and priests and ministers of the various churches sent telegrams of thanks and congratulations to President Taft.

The inauguration festivities promise to eclipse anything in the history of the Territory.

Schooner Loaded with Acid Almost Destroyed by Fire. Norfolk, Va., January 6.—The three-masted schooner William J. Quillen was almost destroyed by fire, which broke out in her hold at midnight to-night. The vessel was tied up at the docks of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company and was loaded with acid, from which the fire is supposed to have originated. Everything except the hull of the ship was destroyed. Several tugs and the fire crew of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company combated the flames.

death in the electric chair. The law in Massachusetts provides no other punishment for first degree murder. Richeson's lawyers still are hopeful that Mr. Pelletier may be induced to accept a plea of guilty in the second degree, which would permit Judge Sanderson to impose a life sentence. Pelletier, Mr. Pelletier will agree, "I shall not interfere in the slightest with the course of justice, but I will not be a confession, you understand, is not a plea of guilty to the indictment. Although Richeson has confessed, he still stands before the court as pleading not guilty. If Richeson should plead guilty in open court before January 15, the date set for his trial, there would be no trial and it would be legal and proper for Judge Sanderson to sentence him to death, just as if a jury had convicted him."

"The poisoning of Avis Linnell is murder in the first degree. You cannot make it anything else. I have no discretion to accept less than a plea of guilty to murder in that degree. Under no consideration would I permit that man to enter a plea in the second degree, or for manslaughter. "This confession undoubtedly will be followed by a change in his plea, and it is possible that Richeson will be brought into court before the date we had decided for his trial—January 15."

If Mr. Pelletier maintains that attitude, "an eye for an eye," there is no doubt that Richeson's attorneys will enter the plea, he demands and permit the divine to be sentenced to death, in the hope that Governor Foss and his Executive Council will commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

It became known to-night that for three days, attorneys Lee and Morse, representing the nation, have been working with Pelletier, and have been permitted the entering of a plea of guilty to second degree murder, so that Judge Sanderson might be at liberty to impose a life sentence.

Known Was Guilty. The counsel for the defense knew Richeson was guilty. Their detectives had confirmed to them the fear they have all along felt—that the dashing young minister had killed his country sweetheart.

Richeson admitted he had killed his girl to them in a position to know. There is every reason to believe that, with proof of his guilt laid before him by his own lawyers, Richeson still brazened it out to them, even as he had to his parishioners.

But three days ago, Messrs. Lee and Morse realized that there was no hope of saving Richeson, so they went to Mr. Pelletier and pleaded for the acceptance of the lesser plea, believing that if the prosecuting attorney would consent, they might return to Richmond and tell him that in that way alone his life might be saved.

They found Mr. Pelletier adamant. Whether they told Richeson of these visits is not known, but Friday, when they visited him, he told them that his bravado had gone, that he was in fear, or both, had overcome his brazenness, and he handed them his confession.

In dramatic, simple language, Lee told the story of the confession as he sat in his room in the Parker House to-day.

"Attorney Morse and I went to visit Richeson Friday noon. It was one of the first visits I had paid him since he had returned from his Virginia home, where I spent the holidays. Richeson was nervous and ill at ease, more so than he had been at any time since I entered the case, at the behest of that old Southern soldier, the father of Richeson."

"Richeson greeted me with nervous dread. I knew the pangs of conscience and remorse had overcome all else. He told me he had decided on a line of action. We talked him what it was, thinking to humor him, but he had gone there to question him about his act when he mutilated himself."

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